

1.3 Does health and social care provision for the community dwelling older population help to reduce unplanned secondary care, support timely appropriate discharge, and improve patient wellbeing? A mixed method meta-review of systematic reviews.

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The number of people aged over 65 is increasing. Hospital admissions for older people aged 65-84 years increased to over 6 million in 2016-2017. We know that while some older people need to be admitted to hospital, timely care provided in the community is more suitable for many. We want to find out if health and social care provided in the community either separately or together can influence three outcomes for older people: unplanned hospital admissions, the length of time spent in hospital and well-being of an individual. We are undertaking a type of review known as meta-review, which provides an overview of the evidence. We are interested in looking at both the effectiveness of this health and social care as well as what health professionals and patients believe is important in these approaches. Our review will summarise the evidence and help inform appropriate design of health services for the older population living in the community.